

17 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, National Estimates

SUBJECT: Review of Directives on National Intelligence Objectives (the "4-Series")

REFERENCES: (a) IAC-M-115
(b) Memo to AD/NE from Chief, Special Support Staff, O/CI, 8 August 1953

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1. By its action on 4 August 1953 (Reference (a)), the IAC charged the Board of National Estimates with reviewing and, if appropriate, proposing revision of subject Directives. To assist the Board, [] has made available from his experiences with USCIB a staff study with recommendations on this subject (Reference (b)).

2. OIC feels it too can contribute to the Board's work. As successor to the files of COAPS and ICAPS, this office has papers which reflect the community's thought and action in this field since 1946; for the past six months, OIC has explored this matter with various CIA offices and IAC agencies. Drawing on this experience, we wish to tender our assistance to the Board, and specifically to:

- a. Transmit herewith certain pertinent papers.
- b. Make recommendations, certain of which involve those in reference (b).

3. Pertinent Papers:

- a. Memo to DCI from AD/RE, dated 8 November 1950
Subject: "Effect of NSC 68/2 on DCI 4/2" (Tab A)

This paper is relevant to the change in the second paragraph of NSCID-4 that the DCI will select priority items "under the guidance of the NSC staff." The ORE paper was referred to AD/NE for use "in developing the guide lines for the production of estimates." No doubt it was so used, and no doubt the evolving program of estimates

TOP

TOP

has achieved the equivalent of NSC guidance, inasmuch as estimates very largely cater to NSC problems. Perhaps a more formal correlation of policy papers and estimates programming is unnecessary, but the possibility of achieving earlier and fuller anticipation of policy needs for specific intelligence would seem to be inherent in closer, more formal, and early collaboration between national intelligence and policy.

b. "Consolidated statement of Intelligence Objectives in the Field of Atomic Energy" (IAC-D-12, 12 January 1951), and excerpt from IAC-M-19, 8 February 1951 (Tab B).

This paper is relevant to the charge in the third paragraph of DCID-4/1 that "the CIA, in collaboration with other agencies concerned, shall establish and maintain on a current basis priority listings of National Intelligence Objectives by country and/or subject." The statement of objectives for Atomic Energy intelligence is the only one to date to evolve on a "subject."

c. "Critical National Intelligence Objectives with Respect to Communist China" (IAC-D-50, 19 May 1952) (Tab C)

This paper is doubly relevant. Its "Tab B" presents an accurate summary of the development of DCID 4/2. Moreover, it reflects the history of the first revision of that Directive, which resulted not in framing new objectives for an additional area, but in expanding the definition of "satellites" in the extant Directive to include the area of China. DCID-4/2 is the only statement of objectives to evolve on an "area."

d. Excerpt from Minutes of IPC meeting of 5 August 1953 (Tab D)

This paper is relevant to the nature and extent of the collectors' interest in national intelligence objectives. It should be remembered that the China question ("C" above) was referred to the IPC, with meager results, and that the IAC on 4 August 1953 first considered referring the 4-Series review to the IPC.

4. OIC Recommendations:

a. That the Board approach this task in much the same way it reviewed the proposed OCI "Draft Priority Intelligence Requirements

TOP

List" in 1951 (Memo to Board from Executive Secretary, dated 3 April 1951), that is: organize a task team to consult freely and fully with CIA offices and IAC agencies (this consultation should initially be with producers, not collectors); concurrently explore with the NSC Secretariat and Planning Board ways and means of implementing paragraph two of NSCID-4; thereafter, expose collectors to the proposed Directives; finally, organize within ONE a mechanism to maintain the Directives on a current basis in the light of changes in policy needs. (Donchez recommendations (a), (b) and (c).

b. That the problem of preparing and establishing intelligence and information requirements directly related to such National Intelligence Objectives as may result from the Board's review not be met by establishing an interagency committee on requirements but rather be left in charge of the Departments and substantive offices of CIA to work out with Departmental collectors and, such interagency mechanisms as now exist (e.g., IPC, USCIB, DCID-7 Committee etc.) (Donchez recommendation (c).

c. That the problem of allocating collection tasks not be met by establishing an interagency collection committee but rather be resolved by a re-examination and possible revision of NSCID-2 and DCID-2/1. (recommendation (d)

5. Enthusiasm in this field seems, at any time, to vary from that of those who believe a statement of objectives will cure most of the problems of intelligence to that of those who feel such objectives have almost no effect on any aspects of intelligence. This Office admits to being of the latter persuasion, but nevertheless believes the attempt must be made, since no one can be sure of the effects until the system is achieved and tried.

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JQR/RDD/lb

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